



EXHIBIT 23  
DATE 1/19/2011  
HB                     

*Nurturing personal growth and supporting meaningful lives  
for adults with disabilities since 1976*

Developmental Disabilities Hearing Testimony  
1/19/11; 10am – noon.

Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is David Eaton and I'm the director of Counterpoint, Inc. in Livingston. Our mission is to nurture personal growth and support meaningful lives for adults with disabilities. We have been providing an array of services to our clients since 1976. We presently serve about 30 individuals, employ more than 40 staff, and have a developmental disabilities budget of approximately \$1,030,000.

In addressing you I want to acknowledge the fiscal challenges the state of Montana faces and the tough funding decisions you will undoubtedly have to make. That being said, I want to encourage you to prioritize funding for services for people with disabilities. The individuals we work for are among the most vulnerable people in the state. The services that we provide are absolutely necessary in assisting our clients to live safe, satisfying and productive lives of their choice.

It is essential that we maintain current funding levels or secure a modest increase in our funding rates. Adequate rates help us to recruit and hire quality staff members to work for our clients, to meet increasing costs, and to meet our mission. In fiscal year 2010 Counterpoint's expenses exceeded our income by approximately \$6,000. If we are to go back to 2009 rates we would see an almost \$33,000 decrease in our income. This scenario would certainly impair our ability to successfully operate our business and continue to provide quality services and supports to the people we work for.

Service providers across the state are providing excellent services to Montanans with disabilities who truly require our support. We are managing state and federal dollars responsibly, efficiently and effectively. We make a substantial and positive impact on the lives of the people we work for. I urge you to prioritize funding for services for people with disabilities. Thank you for your time.

David Eaton  
Executive Director  
Counterpoint, Inc.  
Livingston, MT

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